AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

in response to a probe request, transmitting, from an access point (AP), [[a]] an AP nonce in a probe response.

2.   (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising receiving, by the AP, a pairwise master key based information element as a reassociate request from a user station that received the transmitted AP nonce, wherein the user station generates the pairwise master key based information element based on the AP nonce transmitted in the probe response, [[an additional]] a user station nonce, and a message integrity code, the message integrity code being derived from the pairwise master key.

3.   (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising:

generating, by the AP, a pairwise master key response element based on the [[additional]] user station nonce and an additional message integrity code, the additional message integrity code being derived from the pairwise master key; and

transmitting, by the AP, the pairwise master response element as a reassociation response.

4.   (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising communicating, by the AP, with the user station after the user station receives the reassociation response.

5.   (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

transmitting, by a user station, a probe request to an access point (AP); and

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receiving, by the user station, [[a]] an AP nonce transmitted from the AP in response to the probe request.

6.   (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, further comprising:

generating, by the user station, a pairwise master key based information element based on the AP nonce transmitted in the probe response, [[an additional]] a user station nonce, and a message integrity code, the message integrity code being derived from the pairwise master key; and

transmitting, by the user station, the pairwise master key based information element as a reassociate request to the AP [[access point]].

7.   (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising receiving, by the user station, a pairwise master key response element from the AP [[access point]], wherein the pairwise master key is a response element that is transmitted by the AP [[access point]] as a reassociation response and is based on the [[additional]] user station nonce and an additional message integrity code, the additional message integrity code being derived from the pairwise master key.

8.   (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising communicating, by the user station, with the AP [[access point]] after receiving the reassociation response.

9.   (Currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising a storage medium having stored thereon instructions that, when executed by a computing platform, result in an authenticated key exchange, by:

transmitting, from an access point (AP), [[a]] an AP nonce in a probe response in response to a probe request.

10.   (Currently amended) An article as claimed in claim 9, wherein the instructions, when executed, further result in an authenticated key exchange by receiving, by the AP,

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a pairwise master key based information element as a reassociate request from a user station that received the transmitted AP nonce, wherein the user station generates the pairwise master key based information element based on the AP nonce transmitted in the probe response, [[an additional]] a user station nonce, and a message integrity code, the message integrity code being derived from the pairwise master key.

11.   (Currently amended) An article as claimed in claim 10, wherein the instructions, when executed, further result in an authenticated key exchange by:

generating, by the AP, a pairwise master key response element based on the [[additional]] user station nonce and an additional message integrity code, the additional message integrity code being derived from the pairwise master key; and

transmitting, by the AP, the pairwise master response element as a reassociation response.

12.   (Currently amended) An article as claimed in claim 11, wherein the instructions, when executed, further result in an authenticated key exchange by communicating, by the AP, with the user station after the user station receives the reassociation response.

13.   (Currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising a storage medium having stored thereon instructions that, when executed by a computing platform, result in an authenticated key exchange, by:

transmitting, by a user station, a probe request to an access point (AP); and

receiving, by the user station, [[a]] an AP nonce transmitted from the AP in response to the probe request.

14.   (Currently amended) An article as claimed in claim 13, wherein the instructions, when executed, further result in an authenticated key exchange by:

generating, by the user station, a pairwise master key based information element based on the AP nonce transmitted in the probe response, [[an additional]] a user

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station nonce, and a message integrity code, the message integrity code being derived from the pairwise master key; and

transmitting, by the user station, the pairwise master key based information element as a reassociate request to the AP [[access point]].

15.   (Currently amended) An article as claimed in claim 14, wherein the instructions, when executed, further result in an authenticated key exchange by receiving, by the user station, a pairwise master key response element from the AP [[access point]], wherein the pairwise master key is a response element that is transmitted by the AP [[access point]] as a reassociation response and is based on the [[additional]] user station nonce and an additional message integrity code, the additional message integrity code being derived from the pairwise master key.

16.   (Currently amended) An article as claimed in claim 15, wherein the instructions, when executed, further result in an authenticated key exchange by communicating, by the user station, with the AP [[access point]] after receiving the reassociation response.

17.   (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:
an omnidirectional antenna;
a transceiver coupled to said omnidirectional antenna; and
a baseband processor to generate a probe request to be transmitted to an access point (AP), and to receive [[a]] an AP nonce transmitted in response to the probe request.

18.   (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said baseband processor to generate a pairwise master key based information element based on the AP nonce transmitted in the probe response, an additional nonce, and a message integrity code, the message integrity code being derived from the pairwise master key, the pairwise master key based information element to be transmitted as a reassociate request to the AP [[access point]].

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19.   (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, said baseband processor to receive a pairwise master key response element from the AP [[access point]], wherein the pairwise master key response element is transmitted by the AP [[access point]] as a reassociation response and is based on the additional nonce and an additional message integrity code, the additional message integrity code being derived from the pairwise master key.

20.   (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 19, said baseband processor to establish communication with the AP [[access point]] after receiving the reassociation response.

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